(d) As per the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995, the appropriate Governments and the local authorities shall ensure that every child with a disability has access to free education in an appropriate environment till he attains the age of eighteen years.

Lack of basic infrastructure in primary schools

2798. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that many primary schools are lacking in basic infrastructure facilities, as much as 84 percent of the schools did not have separate toilets for girls, while 33 percent schools did not have drinking water facilities; and

(b) how Government propose to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) As per the Sixth All India Educational Survey conducted by NCERT in 1993, about 10.5 percent primary schools in the country were without any classroom and another 24.5% schools were having only one room for instructional purposes 44% schools had drinking water facilities, 18.9 percent had common urinal and only 8.7 percent primary schools and separate urinals for girls. While the situation has improved over the years, the backlog is still very large.

The District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) has allocations for civil works, the ceiling for which has been recently increased from 24.% to 33% of the project cost. The scheme of Operation Blackboard has a provision for construction of schools buildings and other infrastructure facilities and funds for the same are provided under the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development. The newly launched scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) also includes provision for civil works limited to 33% of the project cost. Under the primary education component of the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY), 50% of the funds are to be used for civil works, including toilets. All such interventions are expected to improve the school infrastructure.